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Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Antigua and Barbuda:* draft resolution

Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/201 of 23 December 2003, 60/208 of 22 December 2005, 61/212 of 20 December 2006 and 62/204 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[2]

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks continue to impose serious constraints on export earnings, private capital inflow and domestic resource mobilization of landlocked developing countries and therefore adversely affect their overall growth and socio-economic development,

Recognizing also that cooperation between transit countries and landlocked developing countries results in better transit transport systems,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

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Expressing support to those landlocked developing countries that are emerging from conflict, with a view to enabling them to rehabilitate and reconstruct, as appropriate, political, social and economic infrastructure and to assisting them in achieving their development priorities, in accordance with the goals and targets of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries,[3]

Reaffirming that the Almaty Programme of Action constitutes a fundamental framework for genuine partnerships between landlocked and transit developing countries and their development partners at the national, bilateral, subregional, regional and global levels,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;[4]

2. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, in accordance with the applicable rules of international law;

3. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

4. *Further reaffirms* its commitment to the declaration[5] adopted by the ministers and heads of delegation participating in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, in which they recommitted themselves to urgently addressing the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Acknowledges* the assessment of the midterm review, at which it was stressed that, despite some progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, the landlocked developing countries continue to be marginalized from international trade, thus preventing them from fully using trade as an instrument for achieving their development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and face challenges in their efforts to establish efficient transit transport systems;

6. *Calls upon* landlocked and transit developing countries, with the support of their development partners, to take immediate, concrete and adequate steps to further accelerate the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking full account of the measures and actions identified in the declaration on the midterm review, and recommends, in this regard, that South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation with the involvement of donors, as well as cooperation among

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[3] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[4] A/63/165.

[5] See resolution 63/2.

subregional and regional organizations, should be strengthened in support of landlocked and transit developing countries;

7. *Notes* that the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations on trade facilitation, particularly on the relevant articles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, such as article V on freedom of transit, article VIII on fees and formalities and article X on transparency, in accordance with the modalities contained in annex D of the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 1 August 2004,[6] are particularly important if landlocked developing countries are to gain a more efficient flow of goods and services as well as the improved international competitiveness resulting from lower transaction costs, and, in this context, that technical assistance should be provided to developing countries, in particular to landlocked developing countries;

8. *Calls upon* donors and the multilateral, regional, financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate, substantial and better coordinated technical and financial assistance, particularly in the form of grants or concessionary loans for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in particular for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes, completion of missing links and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes;

9. *Calls upon* development partners to effectively operationalize the Aid for Trade initiative so as to support trade facilitation measures and trade-related technical assistance, as well as the diversification of export products through the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and private sector involvement in landlocked developing countries;

10. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites other international organizations, including the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Customs Organization, the World Trade Organization, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, to further integrate the Almaty Programme of Action into their relevant programmes of work, taking full account of the declaration on the midterm review;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue to ensure coordinated follow-up and effective monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, and to step up its advocacy efforts to raise international awareness and mobilize resources, as well as to further develop cooperation and coordination with organizations within the United Nations system in order to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the declaration on the midterm review;

[6] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579. Available from http://docsonline.wto.org.

12. *Encourages* the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to continue their efforts to work with landlocked and transit developing countries to develop integrated regional transit transport systems, harmonize regulatory requirements and procedures for import/export and transit with international conventions and standards, promote intermodal transport corridors, encourage access to and more effective implementation of international conventions on transit transport and assist in the establishment of national trade and transport facilitation coordination mechanisms and in improving the planning and development of the missing links in regional infrastructure networks, especially in Africa;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular its Division on Technology and Logistics and its Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes, to continue its technical assistance activities and analytical work related to transit transport cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries;

14. *Encourages* donors and the international financial and development institutions, as well as private entities, to make voluntary contributions to the trust fund established by the Secretary-General to support the activities related to the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Almaty International Ministerial Conference;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session an analytical report on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the declaration on the midterm review;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation".